

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
Supervisor Josie Gonzales, Fifth District



Supervisor Gonzales elected Chair of Head Start Shared Governance Board

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SAN BERNARDINO – With unanimous vote, Supervisor Josie Gonzales has been elected Chair of the Head Start Shared Governance Board.

The Head Start Shared Governing Board (HSSGB) evaluates programs, advises the Board of Supervisors, and is involved in the Head Start decision-making process prior to the Board of Supervisors' final approval on policy items.

Head Start and Early Head Start programs, which are administered by County of San Bernardino Preschool Services Department, provide comprehensive developmental services for children under the age of five and their families with an annual income at or below the Federal Poverty Guideline. Head Start and Early Head Start programming served a total of 5,928 children and families in 2013-14.

"I am excited for this opportunity to help bring increased services and support to our local children and families. These programs prepare our children from cradle to career in acquiring the personal development and attention they need to succeed in the real world, and I intend to do everything I can to make sure we meet that goal," Supervisor Gonzales said.

The HSSGB meets quarterly to serve multiple functions including but not limited to:

- ✓ Develop, review and advise the Board of Supervisors on policies and procedures affecting the Head Start Program.
- ✓ Establish philosophy and long- and short-range program goals for the Head Start Program in cooperation with the Parent Policy Council.
- ✓ Ensure an annual independent audit of the Head Start Program is conducted.
- ✓ Establish and maintain procedures for hearing and resolving community complaints about the program.
- ✓ Prepare annual self-assessment of the program's effectiveness

"We at the San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department are very excited about working with Supervisor Gonzales as the new Chair of our Head Start Shared Governance Board. We look forward to partnering with her in meeting our mission to improve the well-being of children, empowering families and strengthening communities," Diana Alexander said, Director of San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department.

Denise Simon-Gonzales, Community Representative on the Head Start Policy Council, has her daughter enrolled in Head Start services in Rialto and attended Supervisor Gonzales' first meeting as Chair.

"As a parent, it is an honor to have Supervisor Gonzales on the board. Hearing her speak on the love she has for the children and community brought joy to us all. The eagerness she has to learn and the care and compassion she has for our children is just phenomenal," Simon-Gonzales said.

The Head Start Shared Governing Board consist of five members including: CaSonya Thomas, Director, San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health; Maxwell Ohikware, M.D., Health Officer, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health; Kathy Turnbull, Network Officer, San Bernardino County Children's Network; and Becky Thams, M.A. State Preschool Manager, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

For more information on Head Start Programs, visit the [Preschool Services Department website](#) or call 1-888-KIDS-025.

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